



Briggs v. Elliott  
Clarendon County, South Carolina, 1948

**Cast: (4 student parts)**

Scene Card holder

A Reporter (court staff)

Levi Pearson: a farmer and parent of children in a low quality black school

Harry Briggs: another parent

The Judge

**Reporter:** We are standing outside the courthouse in Clarendon County, South Carolina, waiting to hear the judge's decision in a suit brought by a group of local parents. I have one of those parents here with me. What can you tell me about this case?

**Levi Pearson:** My name is Levi Pearson. I am a hard working farmer, and I just want my children to get a good education. The white children in our town get to ride to school free on the bus. I just wanted the same for my kids.

**Reporter:** What happened when you asked for your kids to get to ride the bus?

**Levi Pearson:** The people in town cut off my credit at the store. I couldn't buy supplies for my farm, food for my family...

**Reporter:** Let's ask another parent about their experience.

**Harry Briggs:** My name is Harry Briggs and my kids deserve as good an education as the white kids get. My town only spends about \$43 on each black student but about \$179 on each white student. Some of my kids' schools don't even have indoor plumbing!

**Reporter:** Mr. Briggs. What happened when you joined this lawsuit?

**Mr. Briggs:** Both my wife and I were fired from our jobs. Some other parents were fired too. We were fired because we stood up for our kids' rights.

**Reporter:** I think the judge is ready to announce his decision.

**Judge:** I find that the county can keep separate schools for black and white children, but they have to spend the same amount of money for both schools.

This material was prepared as a part of the Indiana Supreme Court's "Courts in the Classroom" project. For more information and materials concerning the re-enactment of the cases surrounding Brown v. Board of Education, or for other curriculum materials, please contact Elizabeth Osborn, Asst. to the Chief Justice for Court History and Public Education at [eosborn@courts.state.in.us](mailto:eosborn@courts.state.in.us) or visit our website [www.in.gov/judiciary/citc](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/citc).